

Support team efforts (3)

Training of volunteer transliterators, the cornerstone to “informative support”
October. 27th – 31th, 2011

October 28th, Sekirei, “Workshop for volunteer transliterators aiming to help the visually impaired”

The Ofunato city volunteer transliteration group “Sekirei” is currently using cassette tapes to produce their audio books but are looking to switch to CD and held a training workshop themed around “Digital Recording and Editing.”



The first workshop in a while brought in enthusiasm among participants.



Participants listening eagerly to the lecture



The Welfare Center where the workshop was held

When putting theory into practice, the participants were split into two groups to record and edit by themselves under the instructor’s guidance. Some of the participants seemed a little confused at first but they slowly got the hang of it.



Top left) Participants operating a computer by themselves

Top right) Participants making recordings

Left) Editing the recordings using specialized software

October 29th, Miyako Society of Verbal Translation, “Workshop for volunteer transliterators aiming to help the visually impaired 1”

Intouch held three training workshops with a volunteer group “Miyako Society of Verbal Translation.” Ms Emi Mikiko, a transliteration instructor who is active all over Japan, acted as the tutor and provided a wide range of guidance from the basic attitudes of volunteers to the methods of reading newsletters.

Importance was also placed on practical skills at the training workshops. Each participant transcribed while Ms Emi pointed out problems in their reading techniques. It became a workshop where bad reading habits were identified and corrected.



Head Ueno Masayo trying to improve their transcribing skills along with the other members.



InTouch representative Toshinobu Kawagoe giving a few words



Emi Mikiko, the instructor





Participants having a go at transcribing one by one

Status of the Disaster Area, October



In the Taro district of Miyako City. An enormous embankment wall, which had been said to be “Best in the World,” was destroyed by the tsunami.



In Kuwagasaki Elementary School, Miyako City. The picture, which had been taken just before the tsunami came, was posted.



Top left) Temporary stores in the Taro district of Miyako City. There were a grocery store and a hairdresser.

Top right) A damaged school in Otsuchi-cho



Bottom left) Albums and photos laid out in a classroom, the last remains of memories now washed away in the tsunami.

Support team efforts (3)

Training of volunteer transliterators, the cornerstone to “informative support”
December 10th – 12th, 2011

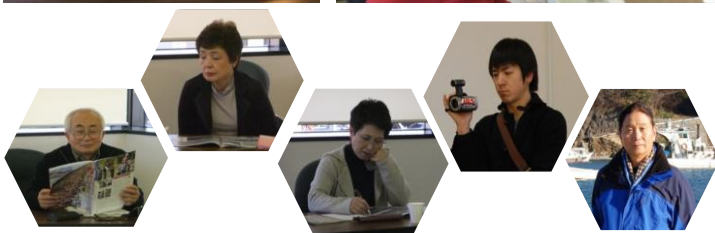
December 11th, Miyako Society of Verbal Translation, “Workshop for volunteer transliterators aiming to help the visually impaired 2”

There were members of the local government present at the second training workshop held with Miyako Society of Verbal Translation. With “Official Information and the Visually Impaired” as the theme, there was an exchange of opinions with the official side and we urged them to understand the importance and necessity of having an audio edition of the information. The official side showed firm promise to further support the production of Miyako Society of Verbal Translation’s audio edition of its newsletter.

Mr Nakamura, the head of the welfare division, promised to “show personal information from now on to make safety confirmations easier” in reply to the volunteers who stated that the rules surrounding private information were hampering their safety confirmations. This decision will be noteworthy nationwide.



Members from the local government (Miyako City Welfare Division, Public Relations Division) who attended the training workshop.



There were participants from Tokyo and Osaka. The two on the left came from Tokyo and the three on the right came from Osaka.

Support team efforts (3)

Training of volunteer transliterators, the cornerstone to “informative support”
February 24th – 26th, 2012

February 25th, Yamada-machi Volunteer Readers, “Training of volunteer transliterators -Transliteration, Recording and Editing-”

The workshop with a volunteer group in Yamada-machi, “Yamada-machi Volunteer Readers” focused on recording and editing. The group had lost their chairperson in the disaster and stopped the activities for some time. But they began their activities again for the visually impaired waiting for their service. There were some volunteers (including the local government members) from Otsuchi-cho, located on south of Yamada-machi, at the workshop.



Everywhere was covered with snow.



The head of Yamada-machi Public Library, Toshio Sakurai



The current chairperson Keiko Sasaki



Both of volunteer groups from Yamada-machi and Otsuchi-cho showed their desire to continue the workshops.



Visiting temporary housing in Yamada-machi and gathering information from visually impaired victims

February 26th, Miyako Society of Verbal Translation, “Up-skill course for volunteers”

The third workshop with Miyako Society of Verbal Translation was held with the aim of creating a system to provide stable informative support for the visually impaired by improving the skills of volunteers.



Status of the Disaster Area, December 2011 and February 2012

● December



Temporary housing with wheelchair access in the Taro area of Miyako City.



Rikuzentakata Disaster FM

● February



Temporary housing covered in snow. Residents of the Taro area of Miyako City are living here.



“InTouch” One Year Report

2011

March 11th

March 12th

March 20th-23rd

March 25th

April 5th-9th

April 25th

May 17th-19th

May 31th

June 5th

June 11th

June 18th

August 27th-28th

The Great Eastern Japan Earthquake Stroke.

“InTouch, Support Network for Visually Impaired Victims of the Eastern Japan’s Massive Earthquake” was formed.

The first dispatch of the InTouch support team (Safety confirmations, surveying and support in Miyako)

First support team briefing session (at the JBS Sonezaki Training Institute). Kawagoe appeared on NHK’s “Kiratto-ikiru” and made a report on the first survey and support efforts.

The second dispatch of the InTouch support team (Safety confirmations, surveying and support in Miyako, Kamaishi and Ofunato)

JBS began broadcasting “Miyako Disaster FM.”

The third dispatch of the InTouch support team (Delivering emergency radios to Miyako, Ofunato, Rikuzentakata and Hanamaki)

Kawagoe appeared on “Shimizu Tadashi-no Hakenmura TV.”

Kawagoe made a speech at “The 12th Meeting The Japanese Society for Low-vision Research and Rehabilitation” (at the Kitakyushu International Conference Center).

Kawagoe made a speech at “NPO Turtle General Meeting” (at Japan Vocational Development Center for the Blind in Tokyo).

Kawagoe made a speech at “The Forum of Residents for Relief, Restoration and Renouncement of the Nuclear Reactors” (At the Konohana Hall in Osaka).

Kawagoe made a speech at “The Japanese Association for an Inclusive Society.” The exhibition introducing InTouch’s support efforts was also held (at International Communication Center for Persons with Disabilities in Sakai).

September
11th

Kawagoe made a speech at the Smile Society's "Those who need help in time of disaster and Creating environment for them" (at Toyooka Public Hospital, Hidaka Medical Center in Toyooka).

September
27th-29th

The fourth dispatch of the InTouch support team (Opinion exchanges with local governments and radio stations as well as delivering emergency radios and their auto-starting components)

October
27th-31st

The fifth dispatch of the InTouch support team (Holding training seminars in Ofunato and Miyako)

November 3rd

Kawagoe made a speech at "Eyelight Fair 2011 -Support for the visually impaired learned from the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake-" (at the Kobe City Fukiai Culture Center)

December
10th-12th

The sixth dispatch of the InTouch support team (Holding a training seminar in Miyako)

2012

February
24th-26th

The seventh dispatch of the InTouch support team (Holding training seminars in Yamada and Miyako)

Media Information

●NHK “Kiratto-ikiru”

At NHK’s Osaka Broadcasting Station on March 25th, 2011, Kawagoe appeared on the live program “Kiratto-ikiru,” which introduces the cultural activities of the disabled. He told about the first survey and support efforts, as well as how to support for visually impaired victims in time of disaster.



●The Tokai Shimpo Newspaper



September 30th, 2011

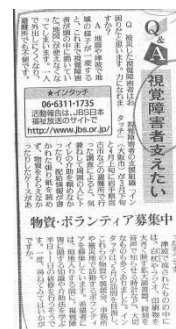


October 30th, 2011

In the Tokai Shimpo which is circulated in Ofunato, Rikuzentakata and Sumita, have twice appeared articles about InTouch’s activities. To the left is a piece about the emergency radios delivered to Sekirei, a volunteer transliteration group from Ofunato. To the right is one about the training seminar with Sekirei.

●Other

- The Mainichi Newspaper (to the left)
April 3rd, 2011
- The Yomiuri Newspaper (to the right)
April 28th, 2011
- The Tokushu Newspaper
September 12th, 2011



Lastly -Keep Talking-

A female staff member at a temporary city hall in Rikuzentakata City lamented that they were worried about the disabled, but they simply couldn't handle it all. The reluctant words might unfortunately be true. At the time of the Great Hanshin Earthquake I also got a similar reply from a male staff member when I asked about the status of support for the disabled, "Never mind that" he said. We simply had to swallow those unforgiving words.

"It is said that a big earthquake will happen in the near future. The damage cannot be brought down to zero. However, if we prepare ourselves, we may be able to reduce the level of damage." (*The Asahi Shimbun*, July 14th, 2012).

A disaster takes a heavier toll on the disabled and the elderly. Deciding on the most effective way to lighten the damage is very difficult. It depends on preparations in daily life. For damage reduction, you have to behave on your judgment (which leads to "helping one's self") and make relations with those around you (which leads to "helping one another").

But it is not easy to continue to be conscious of preparations for disaster for twenty or thirty years. It is when you stop the preparations that a disaster hits. What is the best thing to do?

InTouch/JBS is actually pretty small, and we are only able to give the simplest forms of support. However, we think that we can continue to spread information throughout the disaster areas with radio. We will live through this period of time with the visually impaired, volunteers and people in the radio broadcasting in Iwate. And we will keep on talking not to let 3.11 and the Great Hanshin Earthquake be forgotten.

InTouch Representative Toshinobu Kawagoe



This heartwarming sign near Unosumai station on the JR Yamada line caught our eye as we were gazing out the window while traveling down highway 48 (It reads "Thank You Volunteers"). Taken on December 12th, 2011 in Kamaishi City.



The coastal area of Miyako City 10 days after the earthquake. Taken on the 21st of March, 2011.



The center of Ofunato City with its destroyed railway lines. As of June 2012, neither the JR Ofunato line nor the Sanriku Railway minami-rias line have been repaired. Taken on the 19th of May, 2011.



A 10 meter tall and 2.5km long sea wall called “The Best in the World.” The symbol of the Taro area of Miyako City, which was hailed as “The Tsunami Proof Town,” was destroyed by a 20 meter tsunami. Taken on the 30th of October, 2011.

Support Network for Visually Impaired Victims
of the Eastern Japan's Massive Earthquake
InTouch

InTouch Report

Taking Steps Forward Through Informative Support

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